Security Briefs – Ethics, Morality, and AI

Security Briefs 036 – Ethics and AI Part 1

Framing AI with Theology and Story

Welcome to a new series on AI, or artificial intelligence. It will actually be two related series. The first will be on the ethics and morality of using AI. The second series will delve into the security issues related to using AI. For this first series, we will rely heavily on the work done by Ericius Security's founder, Sean Eyre. Ericius Security is a faith based cyber security firm. And we will provide a link to their website in the show notes.

It's important that we understand that the way we think about artificial intelligence isn't just a question of technology. It's first a question of theology. AI must be framed within the story of God, not just the story of Silicon Valley.

So here's the core question: can we truly work well with partners, platforms, and tools that don't share our values? Social media promised independence and connection but delivered dependence and distraction. AI is raising the same issues. Who defines our relationships — God, or an algorithm?

We're already seeing people form attachments to AI chatbots. Some companies market them as "companions." One man even claimed he "fell in love" with his AI partner. Others are turning to chatbots for therapy or emotional support. But a chatbot cannot love you. It can simulate empathy, but it cannot sacrifice or covenant. Treating it as a friend or partner is spiritually dangerous.

Theologian J. I. Packer once said, "Theologies that cannot be sung are certainly wrong at a deep level." That means our theology should lead us into worship. If we replace prayer or community with conversations with a chatbot, we're confusing simulation with substance. As we will see later, AI is very good at guessing what we want to hear and reflecting that back to us. It reminds me of 2 Timothy 4:3, "For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear." (NLT).

From Eden to New Creation, we are called to be image-bearers and priest-kings, reflecting God's goodness into the world. AI is not neutral in that calling. It either deepens our dependence on Christ — or pulls us into counterfeit intimacy.

Now you know.

In our next episode, we'll define what AI actually is — and why mistaking it for a human relationship is a real danger.

Episode Summary

In the opening of this three-part series on Ethics and Artificial Intelligence, we lay a foundation not in technology but in theology. What does it mean to frame AI in the larger story of God — from Eden to New Creation? We'll wrestle with the question of whether we can partner with tools that don't align with our values, explore how theology leads us into worship, and confront the growing temptation to treat AI as a substitute for true community and relationship.

Ericius Security Website: https://www.ericiussecurity.org/